

New Babies, New Hope



Above: Two Bengal white tiger cubs are shown to children visiting the Buenos Aires Zoo recently. **Below:** Vijay the bonobo is given a bottle by a zoo worker at the Cincinnati Zoo.



Six Bengal white tiger cubs and a baby bonobo (boh-NO-boh) are giving their species a brighter future. The tigers and the bonobo, which is a kind of small chimpanzee, were born at zoos recently. Both species are **endangered**. An endangered species is a plant or animal in danger of disappearing forever.

For an endangered species, every new birth is important. Each birth means the species has a better chance for **survival**, or continuing to exist.

Meet Vijay

Vijay (VEE-jay), a male bonobo, was born in December at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Vijay's mother had trouble caring for him, so zoo workers have been feeding and playing with him.

Vijay is one of about 150 bonobos living in zoos. About 5,000 bonobos are left in the wild. They are found in the rain forests of the Democratic Republic of

Congo, in Africa. Bonobos are endangered because people hunt them and cut down forests they need to survive.

The Tigers' Tale

Bengal white tigers, found in Asia, are also dying out because they are hunted. The six Bengal white tiger cubs raise the number of white tigers in the world—to just 210.

The cubs were born in November at the Buenos Aires (BU-EH-nohs EYE-rehs) Zoo, in Argentina. Like Vijay, the cubs are

cared for by zoo workers. Later, the cubs will be named by students in Argentina.

Life at the Zoo

Zoos are helping bonobos and Bengal white tigers, along with many other endangered species, get a fighting chance to survive.

"Zoos are part of the puzzle to save our animals," says animal expert Lucy Spelman, of the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. "In a zoo, we can do three things—celebrate the animal, study it, and help protect it."

Problem and Solution:

A problem is a difficult situation that needs to be figured out. **A solution** is the answer to a problem. Underline a problem described on this page. Circle the solution to this problem.

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